APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/829,597	04/09/2001	John C. Tang	0007056-0031/P5063/RSH	7956

32291	7590	07/01/2004

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EXAMINER
STEELMAN, MARY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2122	

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>7/9/01,4/7/03</u>.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.** 2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-48* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-48* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *09 April 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☒ Other: *Accepted Drawings*.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-48 are pending.

Drawings

2.   Drawings submitted 07/09/2001 are accepted by Examiner.

Specification

3. Page 11, line 2 recites, "are accessed within 5 minutes of each more than 4 times...", should

be –are accessed within 5 minutes of each other more than 4 times...--. Add the word 'other'.

Claim Objections

4.   Claims 15 and 31 recite, "...wherein said list sometimes hidden." This would be more

clear if they were phrased, "...wherein said list may be hidden."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the
> subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6.   The term "an appropriate amount" in claims 4, 20, and 36 is a relative term, which

renders the claim indefinite. The term "an appropriate amount" is not defined by the claim, the

specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of

ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

7.   The term "recently" in claims 13, 29, and 45 is a relative term, which renders the claim

indefinite. The term "recently" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a

standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be

reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8.   Claims 1-6, 10-22, 26-38, and 42-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by US Patent 6,507,845 B1 to Cohen et al.

Per claims 1, 17, and 33:

-A method...a device...a computer program product...

(Col. 2, lines 52-54, "It is an object of the present invention to solve some of the problems

described above with existing collaboration tools and systems." Col. 2, lines 64-66, "The above

and other objects are achieved by a method implemented on a computer and corresponding

software tool stored on a computer readable medium...")

-composing a list of one or more related items wherein said related items are

related to a task by a metric;

(FIG. 3, Col. 3, lines 1-5, "The method involves the step of storing a first set of data representing

a plurality of users involved in the task and a second set of data representing a plurality of data

objects such as documents or database files involved in the task. The two sets of data

representing users and data objects may be generated...", col. 6, lines 6-9, "...user establishes

the tasks by creating a task object and associating it with a select number of documents involved

in the task and a select number (metrics) of users to be involved in the task.")

-selecting said related item from said list.

(Col. 6, lines 12-13, "Referring to FIG. 3, at a user's request, the set of tasks is retrieved..." Col.

6, line 37, "If the user selects one of the tasks (select item from list of tasks)...")

Per claims 2, 18, and 34:

-said related items are computer objects.

(Col. 3, lines 5-6, "The two sets of data representing users and data objects (related items are

objects) may be generated...")

Per claims 3, 19, and 35:

-determining whether a first computer object and a second computer object have a

user in common.

(Col. 3, lines 11-14, "The method further involves receiving task-related data (user in common)

representing activities performed by each of the plurality of users involved in the task on the

plurality of data objects involved in the task.")

Per claims 4, 20, and 36:

-determining whether a first computer object and a second computer object have an

appropriate amount of data in common.

(Col. 6, lines 18-20, "The UI program also checks whether any electronic notes are associated

with the task...and, if so, associates a note indicator with the task (as an example, task and note

are associated due to common data)...")

Per claims 5, 21, and 37:

-determining whether a first computer object and a second computer object are

accessed with a frequency by one or more users.

(Col. 3, lines 25-37, "...the method further involves displaying activity data in two separate

windows or regions of a screen display simultaneously. A first region contains a list of the

plurality of users in association with an activity performed by each of the users concurrently or

most recently. The second region contains a list of the plurality of data objects in association

with an activity performed upon each of the plurality of data objects concurrently or most

recently. These two windows thus provide comprehensive awareness of the current or most

recent activities performed by the users in the group (accessed with a frequency by one or more

users) as well as the current or most recent activity performed upon each of the documents

involved in the project or task.")

Per claims 6, 22, and 38:

-determining whether a computer object was recently accessed.

(Col. 3, lines 30-33, "The second region contains a list of the plurality of data objects in

association with an activity performed upon each of the plurality of data objects concurrently or

most recently (computer object recently accessed).)

Per claims 10, 26, and 42:

-said related items are users.

(Col. 6, line 15, "...whether any of the users associated with the tasks (related items are users)

are active...", col. 6, lines 48-50, "When a task is selected, the UI program retrieves the set of

usernames from the user profiles associated with the task...")

Per claims 11, 27, and 43:

-determining whether a user has accessed a computer object.

(Col. 4, lines 52-57, "The document objects contain application data as well as meta-data

provided by the object management system to clients, such as information management system

to clients, such as information tracking the history of the document. The user profiles are sets of

usernames and related information regarding users who have access to the system...", col. 6,

lines 62-65, "...the UI program retrieves the most recent activity if any performed on a document

in the project associated with the user...which may be stored in the user profile, task object, or a

separate task history data file", col. 7, lines 14-22, "...determines whether the document is

currently in use...retrieves the username of the user working on the document (user has

accessed) ...determines from the document meta-data or history data file, whether any activity

has been performed on the document since its creation...retrieves the most recent activity

performed on the document...")

Per claims 12, 28, and 44:

-determining whether a user is referenced in a computer object.

(Col. 4, line 58, "...tasks which each relate a number of user profiles (references a user) ...", col.

7, lines 4-8, "...tool bar is displayed...showing the list of users involved (reference a user) in the

selected project, their active status, and what activity they are currently performing on a

document in the task...")

Per claims 13, 29, and 45:

-determining whether a user was recently contacted.

(Col. 2, lines 61-63, "It is an object of the present invention to improve awareness of activities of

a group of authors...", Col. 3, line 46, "...email...", col. 4, lines 34-37, "The server further

contains two or more messaging systems...such as email or electronic notes..." Col. 4, lines 55-

57, "The user profiles are sets of usernames and related information (contact information)

regarding users who have access to the system.")

Per claims 14, 30, and 46:

-said list is displayed continuously.

FIGs. 4-5, Col. 6, lines 35-40, "If the user selects one of the tasks...the tool bar UI generates two

windows...displays graphical indicators of the set of documents...displays a list of the set of

users...")

Per claims 15, 31, and 47:

-said list sometimes hidden.

(Windows may selectively be closed. Note the "close window" icon at the top right corner of the

screen shots. See FIGs. 12-27. Closing / hiding a window is well known in the art.)

Per claims 16, 32, and 48:

-status of said related items is displayed.

(Col. 3, lines 33-37, "These two windows thus provide comprehensive awareness of the current

of most recent activities performed by the users in the group as well as the current or most recent

activity performed upon each of the documents involved in the project or task", col. 5, lines 7-15,

"...tool bar UI program retrieves data from the task, document and user objects to produce a

unique user interface simultaneously displaying tool bars, one showing the status of users and the

other status of documents...", col. 5, lines 40-43, "...tool bar user interface layer, which consists

of objects representing the views of user and document status...", col. 6, lines 22-24, "...the UI

program displays a list of the tasks, by name or other identifier, along with the active and note

indicator (status of related items)...")

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

10.   Claims 7-9, 23-25, 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

US Patent 6,507,845 to Cohen et al., and further in view of US Patent 6,678,882 B1 to Hurley et

al.

Cohen's invention disclosed "awareness of the status of a task, and…improving

collaboration among users involved in a task. Cohen disclosed a document history file (col. 8,

lines 17-38). "The client may select any of the document history activity entries…in which case

the version of the document resulting from the selected activity is retrieved and displayed…This

therefore allows user to identify which version of a document they are working with to facilitate

collaborative review of the document." While Cohen disclosed versioning, he failed to disclose

specifics, such as whether the object is a copy of another object, whether an object is produced

from a template, whether multiple objects were produced from a template.

Cohen failed to disclose:

Per claims 7, 23, and 39:

-determining whether a first computer object is a copy of a second computer object.

However, Hurley disclosed a collaboration model, including a (col. 7, lines 53-54)

"replication submodel arranged to define a manner in which multiple versions of objects (copies

of objects) are represented." Col. 8, lines 10-13, Situations that do call for replication include

any situation involving distribution of shared objects or any situation involving complex

collaboration…" Col. 9, lines 9-11, "A replication model provides replication functionality, and

defines how multiple versions of an object are represented…" The replication submodel handles

details regarding copied objects.

Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of

the invention, to have modified Cohen's invention regarding collaboration and tasks to include

more details of versioning and object copying, as disclosed by Hurley, because both inventions

are directed to collaborative programming using shared objects. (Cohen, col. 1, lines 53-56),

"Tools to support awareness and the availability of people and documents, ad hoc workflow,

document history monitoring, and synchronous and asynchronous collaboration all are critical to

successful collaboration on documents." Tools that handle multiple versions / copies of objects

enhance the overall organization of the system.

Cohen failed to disclose:

Per claims 8, 24, and 40:

-determining whether a first computer object is a template and a second computer

object was produced from said first computer object.

However, Hurley disclosed a collaboration model, including a (col. 7, lines 53-54)

"replication submodel arranged to define a manner in which multiple versions of objects (copies

of objects) are represented." Col. 8, lines 10-13, Situations that do call for replication include

any situation involving distribution of shared objects or any situation involving complex

collaboration..." Col. 9, lines 9-11, "A replication model provides replication functionality, and

defines how multiple versions of an object are represented..." Replication can be accomplished

through a template. In fact, object oriented programming is based on a hierarchy of objects and

derived objects, whereby the parent object is a template for a child object.

Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of

the invention, to have modified Cohen's invention regarding collaboration and tasks to include

more details of versioning and object copying, as disclosed by Hurley, because both inventions

are directed to collaborative programming using shared objects. (Cohen, col. 1, lines 53-56),

"Tools to support awareness and the availability of people and documents, ad hoc workflow,

document history monitoring, and synchronous and asynchronous collaboration all are critical to

successful collaboration on documents." Tools that handle multiple versions and derived

templated objects enhance the overall organization of the system.

Cohen failed to disclose:

Per claims 9, 25, and 41:

-determining whether a first computer object and a second computer object are

both produced from a template.

However, Hurley disclosed a collaboration model, including a (col. 7, lines 53-54)

"replication submodel arranged to define a manner in which multiple versions of objects (copies

of objects) are represented." Col. 8, lines 10-13, Situations that do call for replication include

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"Tools to support awareness and the availability of people and documents, ad hoc workflow,

document history monitoring, and synchronous and asynchronous collaboration all are critical to

successful collaboration on documents." Tools that handle multiple versions and derived

templated objects enhance the overall organization of the system.

Conclusion

11.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

12.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Mary Steelman, whose telephone number is (703) 305-4564. The

examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. If

attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan

Dam can be reached on (703) 305-4552.

The fax phone number is (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final

communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Mary Steelman

06/23/2004

TUAN DAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
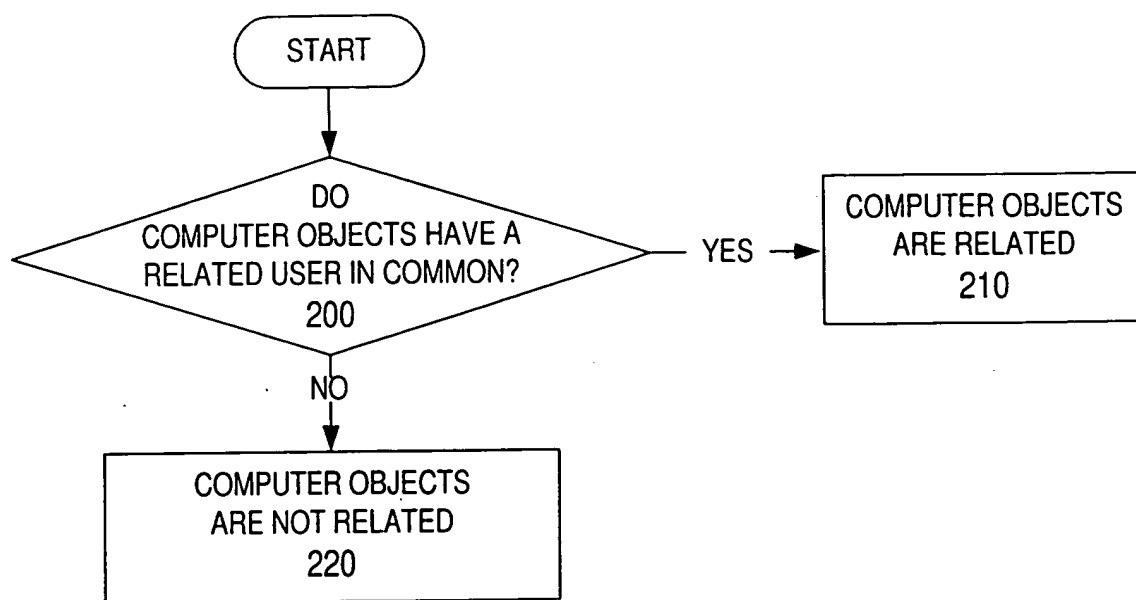
START

LIST OF COMPUTER OBJECTS
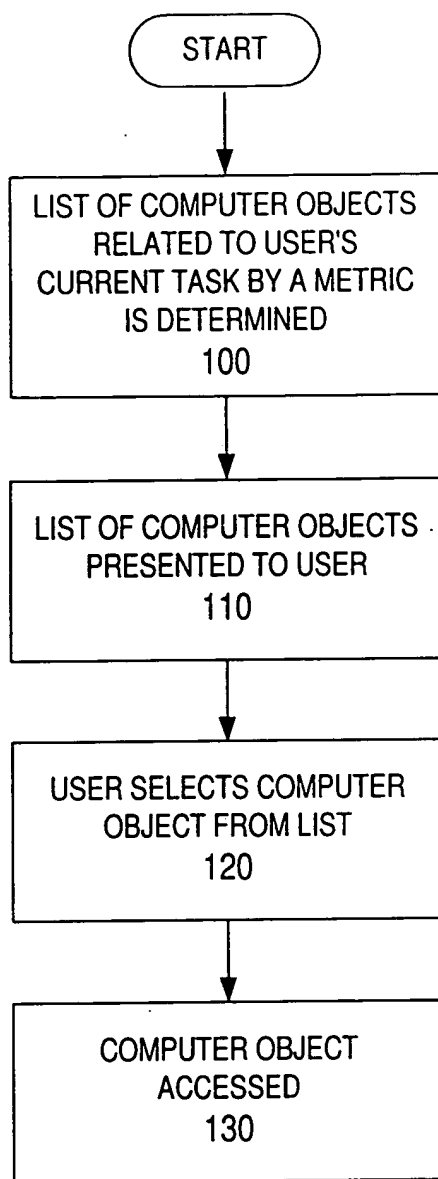RELATED TO USER'S
CURRENT TASK BY A METRIC
IS DETERMINED
100

LIST OF COMPUTER OBJECTS
PRESENTED TO USER
110

USER SELECTS COMPUTER
OBJECT FROM LIST
120

COMPUTER OBJECT
ACCESSED
130

FIGURE 1

START

DO
COMPUTER OBJECTS HAVE A
RELATED USER IN COMMON?
200

YES →

COMPUTER OBJECTS
ARE RELATED
210

NO

COMPUTER OBJECTS
ARE NOT RELATED
220

FIGURE 2

START

DO
COMPUTER OBJECTS HAVE
CONTENT IN COMMON?
300

YES → COMPUTER OBJECTS
ARE RELATED
310

NO

COMPUTER OBJECTS
ARE NOT RELATED
320

FIGURE 3

START

ARE
COMPUTER OBJECTS
FREQUENTLY ACCESSED BY
SAME USER?
400

YES → COMPUTER OBJECTS
ARE RELATED
410

NO

COMPUTER OBJECTS
ARE NOT RELATED
420

FIGURE 4

START

LIST OF USERS RELATED TO
USER'S CURRENT TASK BY A
METRIC IS DETERMINED
500

LIST OF RELATED USERS
PRESENTED TO USER
510

USER SELECTS
RELATED USER FROM LIST
520

USER ACCESSED
530

FIGURE 5

START

HAS USER ACCESSED
THE COMPUTER OBJECT?
600

YES →

USER RELATED TO
COMPUTER OBJECT
610

NO

USER NOT RELATED TO
COMPUTER OBJECT
620

FIGURE 6

START

IS USER
REFERENCED IN THE
COMPUTER OBJECT?
700

YES → USER RELATED TO
COMPUTER OBJECT
710

NO

USER NOT RELATED TO
COMPUTER OBJECT
720
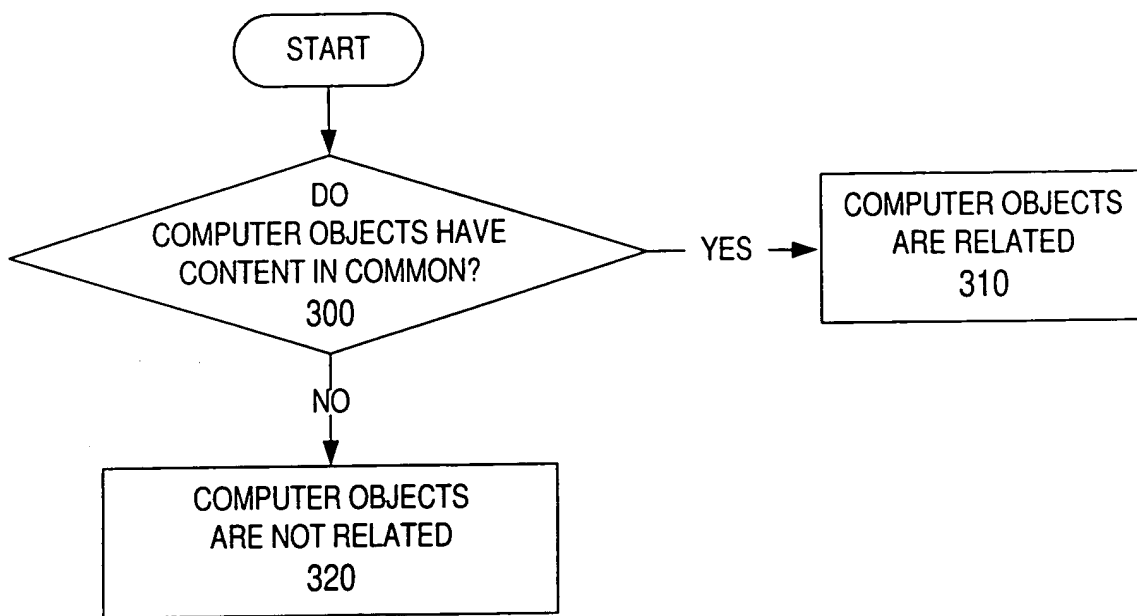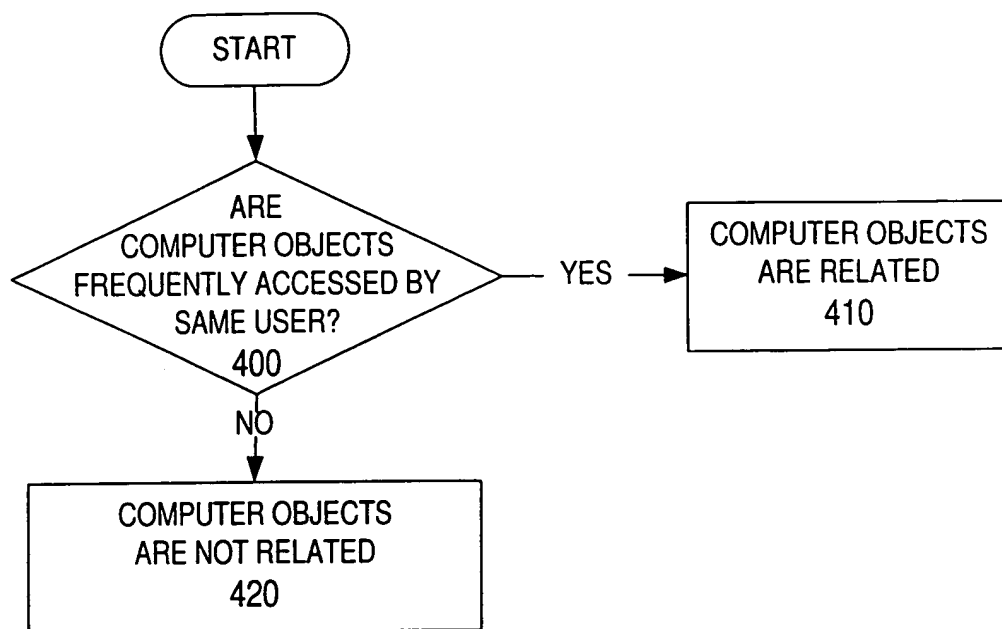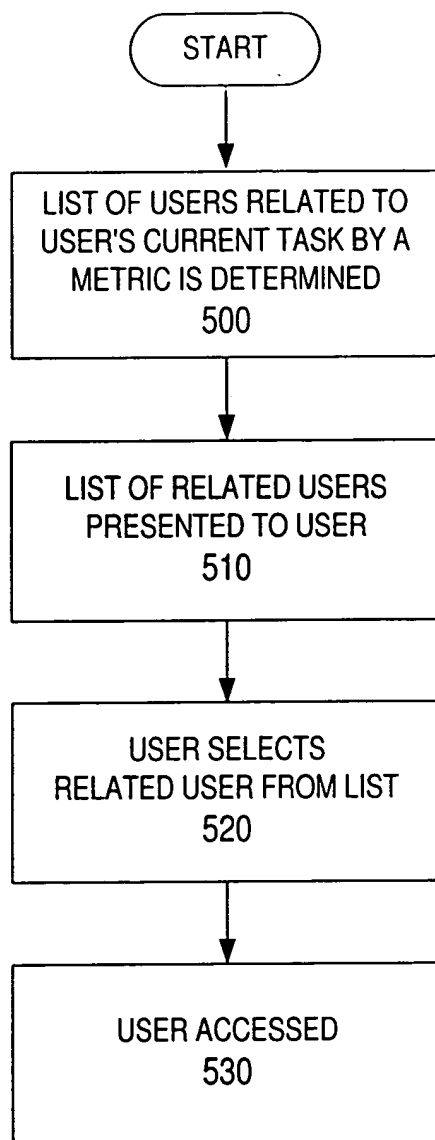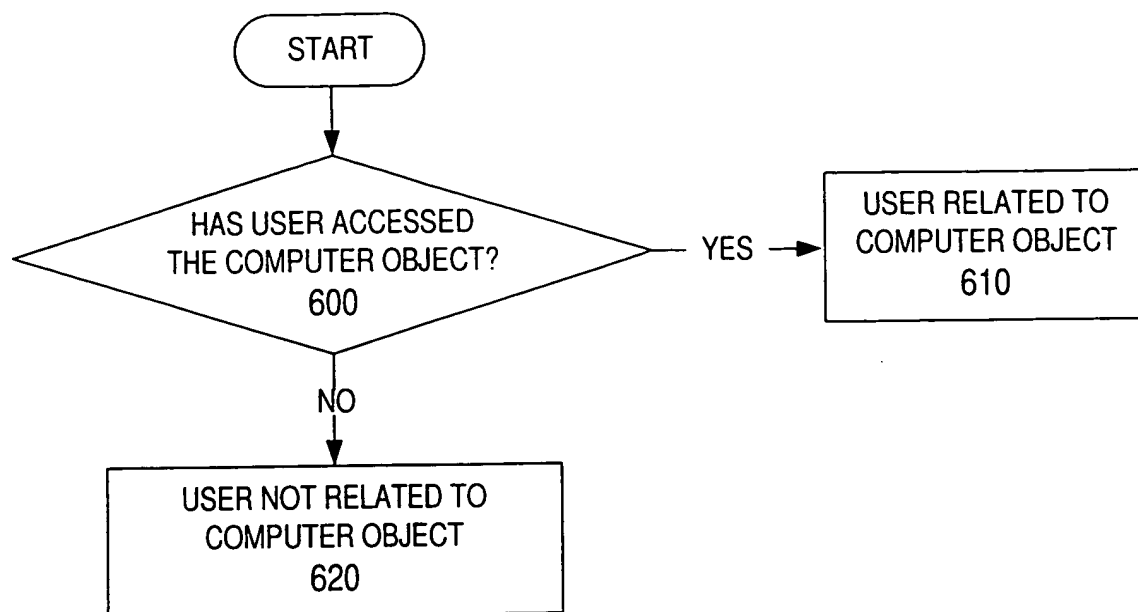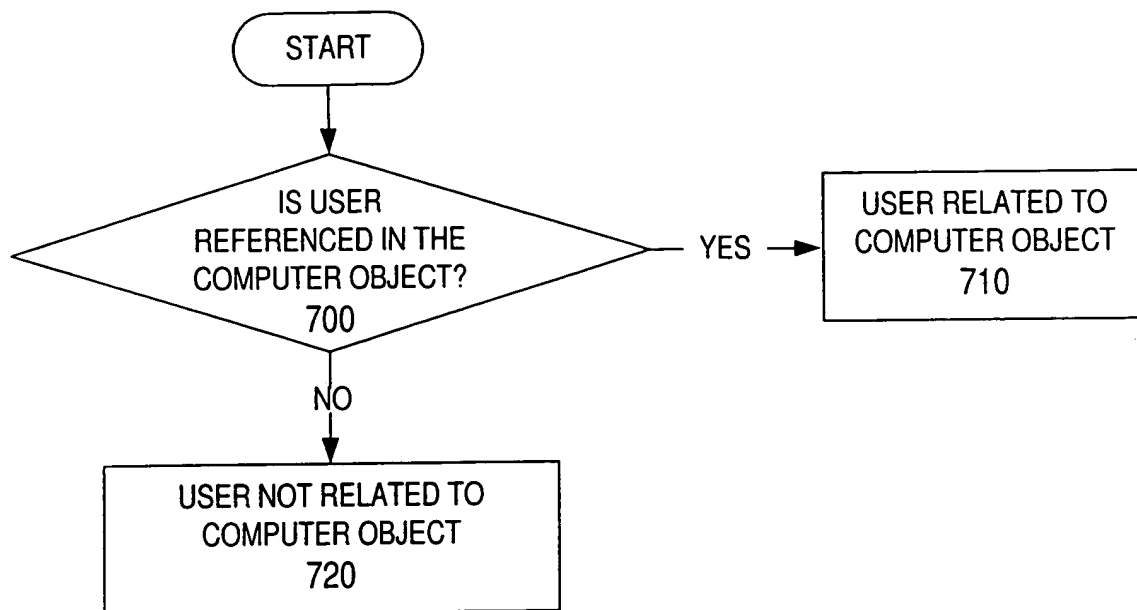
FIGURE 7

WEBWORK PORTAL

Date	From	Subject
Wed May 3, 4:07p	Maurey Beard	Ward's Email 12/5/00
Wed May 3, 7:17p	Vidul Driges	Directions to Church Mtg
Wed May 3, 8:00p	Larry Ward	Pleasantville: mtgmin
Wed May 4, 9:03a	Pleasantville Fellows	Pleasantville Home Page
Wed May 4, 9:19a	Karpatrick Mitchel	Brown's Email 4/5/00
Wed May 4, 10:08a	Patrica Brown	Agenda for Church Mtg
Wed May 4, 10:34a	Vidul Driges	Budget Agenda
Wed May 4, 12:56p	Pleasantville Fellows	Pleasantville: mtgmin-v.2
Wed May 4, 2:24p	Pastor John Brown	Home Page

CONTACTS

Karpatrick Mitchel

Vidul Driges

Larry Ward   820

HISTORY

Ward's Email 12/5/00

Directions to Church Mtg

Pleasantville: mtgmin

Home Page   830

PEOPLE

Maurey Beard

Patrica Brown

Pleasantville Fellows   840

DOCUMENTS

2000 Budget

Budget Meetings

Brown's Church Meeting

Pleasantville Chron...   850

DOCUMENT DISPLAY AREA

800

NEIGHBORHOOD

810

MAIL   CALENDAR   ADDRESS   CALC   WORD   PRESENT   FILE   WEB

SEARCH

FIGURE 8

FIGURE 9